



**CITY OF COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA ITEM**

AGENDA ITEM 21-O-13

Prepared By: Suellen M. Ferguson
City Attorney

Meeting Date: 10/26/2021

Presented By: Janeen Miller,
City Clerk
Suellen M. Ferguson
City Attorney

Proposed consent: No

Originating Department: City Clerk's Office

Issue Before Council: Amendments to the City Code, to allow for continued remote participation hybrid meetings for City Boards, Commissions and Committees

Strategic Plan Objective: Objective 1: Innovate and improve City services to enhance quality, value and accessibility for all our residents.

Background / Justification:

During the Worksession on October 19, 2021, the issue of whether to enable the City public bodies to continue to meet online and/or in a hybrid format (attending in person and online) once the pandemic emergency ends was discussed. This discussion addressed both Mayor and Council meetings and also advisory board, commission and committee meetings.

The consensus of Mayor and Council comments for Boards, Commissions and Committees meetings was:

- Allow in person and/or remote attendance meetings as determined to be best by the board, commission or committee to encourage participation and ease the burdens of volunteers.
- The ordinance amendments should enable in person and/or remote attendance at meetings, with the details to be set through amendment of Board, Commission and Committee Rules and Regulations.
- If attending remotely, the public will have access to audio, and access to visual to the extent technologically possible, with the goal of making visual access available to all attendees.
- For those committees, such as the Ethics Commission, Advisory Planning Commission and the Noise Board, that hold hearings, in person meetings will still be required, but individual members could participate remotely for just cause, and the public would have the option of in person or remote participation.

The City Attorney was authorized to draft the required ordinance changes. The Ordinance is attached for review. If adopted, a number of changes will be required in the Rules and Regulations after the code framework has been approved.

Fiscal Impact:

To be determined, depending on the technology solution that is identified.

Council Options:

1. Introduce Ordinance 21-O-13.
2. Introduce an amended ordinance or different code amendment
3. Not authorize introduction of 21-O-13

Staff Recommendation:

#1:

Attachments:

Draft Ordinance 21-O-13